



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Bridges Get Crushed May 7

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON May 2, 2011) Bridges will “Get Crushed” as participants compete in Sault College’s 22nd annual Bridge Building contest to be held Saturday, May 7th in the Multimedia Centre. Grade 5/6 category testing will begin at 10:00am. Students may register their bridges by bringing them to the Sault College Lobby on Thursday, May 5th from 3:30pm to 8:00pm.

600 balsa wood bridge kits were sold to high school and elementary school students and approximately 250 entries are anticipated. The College sold out of bridge kits within days of going on sale as the popularity of the event continues to grow.

“Bridge building is a fun and informative way of introducing youth to the world of civil engineering,” says Tanya Running, Bridge Building committee member and Sault College student recruitment and success advisor. “Many of the local schools have incorporated this contest into their bridges and structures curriculum.” Students from Algoma region schools were given the opportunity to participate in Bridge Building clinics run by Sault College Civil Engineering professors and student recruiters earlier this month that provided valuable tips on constructing strong and sturdy bridges. Over 500 students in total participated in the clinics, coming from as far away as Chapleau.

Civil and Architectural engineers from the community will judge the construction of each bridge entered for aesthetics and structural ability. The bridges are then scored during a process of

being crushed to test their strength. A load is applied to the top centre of the bridge and weight is applied until the bridge is ultimately crushed.

Cash prizes will be awarded to contest winners. First-place winners in each category will receive \$100. In addition, winners over the age of thirteen will be invited to take a walk on the top arch of the International Bridge. \$75 will be awarded to each second-place winner and \$50 to third-place winners. In the grade 5/6 and 7/8 categories, additional smaller cash prizes will be awarded. An awards ceremony will take place Thursday, May 19th at 4:00pm in the Sault College Multimedia center to celebrate the achievements of the winners.

This year's sponsors include the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), Professional Engineers Ontario, Algoma Chapter (PEO), Rotary Club North and OACETT – Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists, School College Work Initiative (SCWI) and the International Bridge Administration.

Chartwells cafeteria on campus will be open for service on the day of the event. The Bridge Building event is open to the general public, and parking on campus is free to all attendees.

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About Sault College Civil Engineering Technician Program

The Civil Engineering Technician program is designed to prepare graduates with the basic skills and knowledge to enter the design and heavy construction fields. As a graduate, students can work as part of an engineering team or as part of a multi-disciplinary team. Graduates work in a variety of careers including computer-aided drafting and design (CAD), surveying, construction layout and inspection, field and laboratory testing, supervision and scheduling of projects, estimating, sales and marketing, as well as design and construction of municipal installations, highways, pipelines, and hydro-electric developments. Students may have the opportunity to be involved in applied research projects. Sault College, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario is one of 24 community colleges in Ontario. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca for more information.

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